

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Rewrite the paragraph running from line 10 to line 22 of page 2 as follows:

When such a tool, which can be fairly heavy, is suspended from a standard tool balancer, typically constituted as ~~a line,~~ e.g. a cable ~~[[,]]~~ suspended from an overhead windup device that is set ~~[[the]]~~ to apply an upward force on the cable equal to the tool weight, the device can be moved about below the windup device with relative ease. To this end the heavy housing is provided with a mount or eye to which the lower end of the balancer cable is connected. The air ~~[[line]]~~ hose for the tool also normally is attached to this ~~[[line]]~~ cable, but diverges from the ~~[[line]]~~ cable near its lower end so that it can be connected to the outer end of the handle. Such an installation is clumsy in the extreme as the user must wrestle with the air ~~[[line]]~~ hose and balancer cable, making it difficult to handle and position the tool.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS CTD.

Rewrite the paragraph running from line 11 to line 27 of page 4 as follows:

According to the invention the axial passages are formed by axially extending and radially inwardly open grooves in the handle and by an outer surface of the transmission radially inwardly closing the grooves. The handle is formed at the outer handle end with ~~[[a]]~~ an annular outlet passage into which the axially extending grooves open and that in turns opens into the motor. A seal compressed radially between the rotor and an inner surface of the handle is positioned between the outlet passage and the inner handle end. This is an extremely compact construction that nonetheless serves to conduct the air from the inner handle end past the transmission to the inner inlet end of the motor, whence the air escapes through the vent ports on the handle outer end. To this end the handle has at its outer end ~~[[and]]~~ an end cap formed with the outlet opening or openings, and is provided internally with sound-deadening material forming a muffler in the cap between the cap and the rotor.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS CTD.

Rewrite the Specific Description running from line 2 of page 7 to line 21 of page 8 as follows:

As seen in FIGS. 1 through 5, a strapping machine according to the invention basically has a fairly heavy cast-metal housing 1 provided with a mount 2 having an end eye or hook 3 for a balancer line or cable shown schematically by a dashed line at 4 so that the housing 1 can be suspended at a work station. A handle 5 is pivotal about an axis 7 on the housing 1 relative to a fixed handle part 6 and can move between the open position of FIGS. 1 and 2 with the handle 5 spaced from the part 6 so that straps S (FIG. 6 only) can be threaded through the machine and the closed position of FIGS. 3 and 4 in which the straps S are clenched in the housing 1. The housing 1 incorporates a sealer 8 and a tensioner 9 of standard construction. The tensioner 9 is partly built into the handle 5.

Both the sealer 8 and the tensioner 9 are powered by a drive 10 mainly incorporated in the pivotal handle 5. According to the invention the housing 1 carries near the balancer eye 3 an inlet fitting constituted as a standard quick-connect plug 11 for a pneumatic hose indicated by a dashed line schematically at 29 and normally attached to the balancer line 4. This inlet plug 11 is connected with a valve assembly 12 in the housing 1 that is operated by buttons 13 and 14 on the housing 1 for operating the sealer 8 and tensioner 9.

Further in accordance with the invention and as shown in FIG. 6 the valve assembly 12 is connected to the drive 10 by a rigid conduit or fitting 16 having one leg 15' attached fixedly to the valve assembly 12 on the housing 1 offset from the axis 7 and another leg 15" fixed rotatably on the inner end of the handle 5 at the axis 7 so the handle 5 can pivot freely without moving the conduit 16. The inner leg 15' on the housing 1 is provided with a flow-adjustment screw 17 that can be screwed in and out to change the flow cross-section of the conduit 16.

The drive 10 in the basically cylindrical handle 5 comprises as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 a rotor 18 of standard type at the outer end of the handle 5 and intended to be rotated about an axis 30 of the handle by jets of compressed air as shown at 26 and a transmission [[18]] 19 toward the inner handle end and having an output shaft 31 connected to the sealer 8 and tensioner 9. The handle 5 has at its inner end an input 22 for compressed air and at its outer end at an end cap 20 an outlet 21 for spent air. From the inlet 22 the air flows into an annular passage 23, then through four angularly equispaced and axially extending grooves 25 into a forwardly open groove 28 that forms the air jets 26 that pass through the rotor 18, spinning it about the axis 30 and driving the shaft 31 via the transmission 19. A seal ring 24 around the inner end of the transmission 19 seals it in the tubular outer body of the handle 5 and another seal ring 27 at the outer end seals around the rotor 18 just upstream of the groove 28. The cap 29 can hold wire mesh 32 or the like as a muffler.